

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method, comprising:
  - 5 receiving an instant messaging operation directed to a given user, wherein said given user is not offline;
  - determining a presence state of an instant messenger in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, wherein said presence state corresponds to  
10 said given user; and
  - selectively processing said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.
- 15 2. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a chat operation.
3. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises an alert operation.  
20
4. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a poll operation.
5. The method as recited in claim 1, wherein selectively processing said  
25 instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state further comprises:
  - notifying said given user of said instant messaging operation if said presence state is indicative of an idle user state; and

queuing said instant messaging operation without notifying said given user if said presence state is indicative of a busy user state.

5        6.        The method as recited in claim 5, wherein said instant messaging operation is a chat operation initiated by a second user, and wherein queuing said instant messaging operation without notifying said given user further comprises notifying said second user of said queuing.

10        7.        The method as recited in claim 5, further comprising:  
  
detecting a transition from a presence state indicative of a busy user state to a presence state indicative of an idle user state subsequent to said queuing;  
and  
  
15        notifying said given user of a queued instant messaging operation in response to detecting said transition.

20        8.        The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:  
  
detecting a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;  
  
determining whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and  
  
25        transitioning said presence state of said instant messenger to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold.

30        9.        The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

storing schedule information corresponding to said given user, wherein said  
schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at  
a given time;

5 querying said schedule information; and

if a current presence state of said instant messenger does not correspond to said  
activity status indicated by said schedule information, assigning a different  
presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response to said  
10 querying, wherein said current presence state and said different presence  
state each correspond to said given user.

10. The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:

15 storing an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of  
said instant messenger, wherein said given presence state corresponds to  
said given user;

20 detecting a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and  
performing said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

11. A method, comprising:

storing an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of an  
instant messenger, wherein said given presence state corresponds to a  
given user;

detecting a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

performing said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

12. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a chat operation.

13. The method as recited in claim 12, wherein said given presence state is indicative of an idle user state, and wherein performing said instant messaging operation comprises initiating said chat operation.

14. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises an alert operation.

15. The method as recited in claim 14, wherein said given presence state is indicative of an idle user state, and wherein performing said instant messaging operation comprises initiating said alert operation.

16. The method as recited in claim 11, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a poll operation.

17. The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

detecting a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determining whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

5       transitioning said presence state of said instant messenger to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold.

18.     The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

10       storing schedule information corresponding to said given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at a given time;

15       querying said schedule information; and

if a current presence state of said instant messenger does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, assigning a different presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response to said querying, wherein said current presence state and said different presence state each correspond to said given user.

20

19.     The method as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

25       receiving an instant messaging operation directed to said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determining a presence state of said instant messenger in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, wherein said presence state corresponds to said given user; and

30

selectively processing said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

5

20. A computer-accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

10 receive an instant messaging operation directed to a given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determine a presence state of an instant messenger in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, wherein said presence state corresponds to said given user; and

15

selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

21. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said  
20 instant messaging operation comprises a chat operation.

22. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises an alert operation.

25 23. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a poll operation.

24. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein selectively processing said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence  
30 state further comprises:

notifying said given user of said instant messaging operation if said presence state is indicative of an idle user state; and

5        queuing said instant messaging operation without notifying said given user if said presence state is indicative of a busy user state.

25.    The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 24, wherein said instant messaging operation is a chat operation initiated by a second user, and wherein  
10    queuing said instant messaging operation without notifying said given user further comprises notifying said second user of said queuing.

26.    The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 24, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

15        detect a transition from a presence state indicative of a busy user state to a presence state indicative of an idle user state subsequent to said queuing;  
and

20        notify said given user of a queued instant messaging operation in response to detecting said transition.

27.    The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

25        detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

30

transition said presence state of said instant messenger to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold.

28. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said  
5 program instructions are further computer-executable to:

store schedule information corresponding to said given user, wherein said  
schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at  
a given time;

10

query said schedule information; and

if a current presence state of said instant messenger does not correspond to said  
activity status indicated by said schedule information, assign a different  
presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response to said  
15 querying, wherein said current presence state and said different presence  
state each correspond to said given user.

29. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 20, wherein said  
20 program instructions are further computer-executable to:

store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said  
instant messenger, wherein said given presence state corresponds to said  
given user;

25

detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and

perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.



30. A computer-accessible medium comprising program instructions, wherein the program instructions are computer-executable to:

5 store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of an instant messenger, wherein said given presence state corresponds to a given user;

10 detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

31. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 30, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a chat operation.

15 32. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said given presence state is indicative of an idle user state, and wherein performing said instant messaging operation comprises initiating said chat operation.

20 33. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 30, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises an alert operation.

25 34. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 33, wherein said given presence state is indicative of an idle user state, and wherein performing said instant messaging operation comprises initiating said alert operation.

35. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 30, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a poll operation.

30 36. The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 30, wherein said program instructions are further computer-executable to:

detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to  
5                   said detecting; and

transition said presence state of said instant messenger to a busy state in response  
to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold.

10           37.    The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 30, wherein said  
program instructions are further computer-executable to:

store schedule information corresponding to said given user, wherein said  
schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at  
15                   a given time;

query said schedule information; and

if a current presence state of said instant messenger does not correspond to said  
20                   activity status indicated by said schedule information, assign a different  
presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response to said  
querying, wherein said current presence state and said different presence  
state each correspond to said given user.

25           38.    The computer-accessible medium as recited in claim 30, wherein said  
program instructions are further computer-executable to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to said given user, wherein said  
given user is not offline;

30

determine a presence state of said instant messenger in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, wherein said presence state corresponds to said given user; and

5 selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

39. A system, comprising:

10 a computer system;

an instant messenger software module configured to execute on said computer system;

15 wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

receive an instant messaging operation directed to a given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

20 determine a presence state of said instant messenger software module in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, wherein said presence state corresponds to said given user; and

25 selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

40. The system as recited in claim 39, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a chat operation.

41. The system as recited in claim 39, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises an alert operation.

42. The system as recited in claim 39, wherein said instant messaging  
5 operation comprises a poll operation.

43. The system as recited in claim 39, wherein selectively processing said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state further comprises:

10 notifying said given user of said instant messaging operation if said presence state is indicative of an idle user state; and

queuing said instant messaging operation without notifying said given user if said presence state is indicative of a busy user state.

15

44. The system as recited in claim 43, wherein said instant messaging operation is a chat operation initiated by a second user, and wherein queuing said instant messaging operation without notifying said given user further comprises notifying said second user of said queuing.

20

45. The system as recited in claim 43, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

25 detect a transition from a presence state indicative of a busy user state to a presence state indicative of an idle user state subsequent to said queuing;  
and

notify said given user of a queued instant messaging operation in response to detecting said transition.

30

46. The system as recited in claim 39, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

5

determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

10

transition said presence state of said instant messenger software module to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said activity threshold.

47. The system as recited in claim 39, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

15

store schedule information corresponding to said given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at a given time;

20

query said schedule information; and

25

if a current presence state of said instant messenger software module does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, assign a different presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response to said querying, wherein said current presence state and said different presence state each correspond to said given user.

48. The system as recited in claim 39, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

30

store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said instant messenger software module, wherein said given presence state corresponds to said given user;

5 detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing; and  
perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

10 49. A system, comprising:  
a computer system;

an instant messenger software module configured to execute on said computer system;

15 wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

store an instant messaging operation associated with a given presence state of said instant messenger software module, wherein said given presence state corresponds to a given user;

20 detect a transition to said given presence state subsequent to said storing;  
and

25 perform said instant messaging operation in response to said detecting.

50. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a chat operation.

51. The system as recited in claim 50, wherein said given presence state is indicative of an idle user state, and wherein performing said instant messaging operation comprises initiating said chat operation.

5 52. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises an alert operation.

53. The system as recited in claim 52, wherein said given presence state is indicative of an idle user state, and wherein performing said instant messaging operation  
10 comprises initiating said alert operation.

54. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein said instant messaging operation comprises a poll operation.

15 55. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

detect a computer system activity level indicative of computer system activity;

20 determine whether said activity level exceeds an activity threshold in response to said detecting; and

transition said presence state of said instant messenger software module to a busy state in response to determining that said activity level exceeds said  
25 activity threshold.

56. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

store schedule information corresponding to said given user, wherein said schedule information is indicative of an activity status of said given user at a given time;

5 query said schedule information; and

if a current presence state of said instant messenger software module does not correspond to said activity status indicated by said schedule information, assign a different presence state that corresponds to said activity status in response to said querying, wherein said current presence state and said  
10 different presence state each correspond to said given user.

57. The system as recited in claim 49, wherein said instant messenger software module is further configured to:

15 receive an instant messaging operation directed to said given user, wherein said given user is not offline;

determine a presence state of said instant messenger software module in response to receiving said instant messaging operation, wherein said presence state  
20 corresponds to said given user; and

selectively process said instant messaging operation dependent upon said presence state in response to said determining.

25